

Amendments to the Claims

1 (original). A connecting terminal, comprising:

a busbar;

at least one spring terminal element formed separately of said busbar and electrically conductively connected to said busbar;

said spring terminal element having a spring limb and a contact limb opposite said spring limb for connecting an electrical conductor to be inserted between said spring limb and said contact limb and to rest against said contact limb; and

said spring limb and said contact limb each being supported against said busbar for absorbing spring forces.

2 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said spring limb and said contact limb are formed, in one or more parts, thereof from bent, flat material formed substantially only with bending radii lying in a plane defined orthogonally to a width dimension of said flat material, and the width dimension of said spring terminal element corresponds substantially to a width of said flat material

3 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said spring terminal element is formed in two parts, and said spring limb is composed of a material having a high modulus of elasticity.

4 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 3, wherein said spring limb is formed of spring steel.

5 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said spring terminal element is formed in two parts, and said contact limb is composed of a highly conductive material.

6 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 5, wherein said spring limb is formed of a copper alloy.

7 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said spring limb and said contact limb are substantially U-shaped or V-shaped and said spring limb and said contact limb are connected to one another along in each case one subregion.

8 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said contact limb is formed with fluting for improving a contact with and fixing of the conductor.

9 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said busbar is formed with a projection and said contact limb is formed with a slot opening for connecting to said projection on said busbar.

10 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 9, wherein slot opening is configured for riveting or clamping with said projection on said busbar.

11 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said spring limb and said contact limb are connected to one another by riveting or by welding.

12 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said spring terminal element has an additional spring section adapted to exert an additional spring force on the spring limb when a deflection thereof exceeds a predetermined amount.

13 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said busbar is formed from a planar, flat material and oriented perpendicular to a width dimension of said spring terminal element.

14 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 13, wherein said busbar is a stamped part formed from a planar, flat material.

15 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 13, wherein said busbar is formed with at least one accommodating recess for receiving said at least one spring terminal element.

16 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 15, wherein said accommodating recess is U-shaped with a base section and two side sections, and said spring terminal element is fixed to said base section, in particular by riveting, clamping or welding.

17 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 16, wherein said base section of said accommodating recess is formed with a projection engaging in a slot opening formed in said spring terminal element.

18 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 13, wherein said busbar includes spring contacts for accommodating at least one link finger.

19 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 18, wherein said spring contacts and said busbar are an integrally formed stamped part.

20 (currently amended). The connecting terminal ~~as claimed in one of claims 10 to 15~~ according to claim 13, wherein a protective conductor connection is formed integrally with the busbar.

21 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said busbar is formed from a strip of a planar, flat material having a width substantially corresponding to a width of said spring terminal element.

22 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said busbar is substantially planar.

23 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 21, wherein said spring terminal element is formed with support attachments bracing against said busbar.

24 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 23, wherein said contact limb is U-shaped in a central region and merges at both end sections with reversely U-shaped support attachments, and wherein free ends of said support attachments are connected to said busbar.

25 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 24, wherein said free ends of said support attachments are riveted or latched to said busbar.

26 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 24, wherein said free ends of said support attachments engage in a resilient manner in stamped openings formed in said busbar.

27 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 14, wherein said support attachments extend inclined with respect to said busbar for improving a supporting effect thereof.

28 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1 formed as a terminal strip.

29 (original). A connecting terminal, comprising:

a busbar produced from a planar, flat material;

at least one spring terminal element formed separately from said busbar, retained on said busbar;

said spring terminal element having a spring limb for connecting an electrical conductor;

said spring terminal element being formed from a bent spring material strip of a given width and having substantially only bending radii lying in a plane oriented perpendicular to a width direction thereof, such that a width dimension of said spring terminal element substantially corresponds to said given width of said spring material; and

wherein said busbar is oriented perpendicular to the width direction of said spring terminal element and said spring terminal element is supported against the busbar for absorbing spring forces.

30 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 29, wherein a contact face, against which said spring limb of said spring terminal element presses an electrical conductor, is formed by a region of said planar, flat material, angled perpendicularly to a plane of extent of said busbar.

31 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 30, wherein said spring terminal element and said busbar are interconnected by riveting or welding.

32 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 29, wherein said busbar has a stop, formed integrally therewith, against which the spring limb rests to an increasing extent as a deflection thereof increases.

33 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 29, wherein said busbar is formed with an accommodating recess for receiving said spring terminal element.

34 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 29, which further comprises a protective conductor connection formed integrally with said busbar.

35 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 29 formed as a terminal strip.